

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3977

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, CH, GB, CM, CG
SUBJ: CHINESE VICE PRIME MINISTER VISITS CAMEROON

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 2157, (B) LIBREVILLE 1890

1. MADAME CH'EN MU-HUA, CHINESE VICE PREMIER OF THE STATE COUNCIL, ARRIVED IN CAMEROON ON AUGUST 12 AT THE HEAD OF A LARGE DELEGATION AND IS EXPECTED TO DEPART FOR KINSHASA ON THE 19TH. DURING HERE STAY IN CAMEROON MADAME CH'EN WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT ON TWO OCCASIONS AND WILL VISIT A NUMBER OF PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THESE INCLUDE BURECOM IN DOUALA (WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SALES OF CHINESE GOODS IMPORTED TO MEET LOCAL COSTS OF CHINESE AID PROJECTS), THE HOSPITAL AT MBALMAYO (WHERE A CHINESE MEDICAL TEAM IS RESIDENT), THE CULTURAL CENTER IN YAOUNDE (WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR OVER A YEAR AND A HALF WITH NO SUPERSTRUCTURE AS YET VISIBLE), MBANDJOK (TO VISIT THE CAMSUCO SUGAR FACTORY), AND GAROUA (TO VISIT THE CICAM TEXTILE FACTORY AND THE SITE OF THE LAGDO DAM WHICH THE CHINESE ARE BUILDING). NOT MENTIONED
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BUT AN ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE VISIT TO A CHINESE AID SITE WOULD BE A TRIP TO GUIDER LOCATED NORTH OF GAROUA WHERE A CHINESE MEDICAL TEAM IS LOCATED. ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCED SCHZZULE, MADAME CH'EN WILL HAVE ACTIVITIES EVERY DAY BUT IT IS NOTABLE THAT A NUMBER OF AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS ARE FREE.

2. PRESIDENT AHIDJO GAVE A BANGUET IN HONOR OF MADAME CH'EN ON

SATURDAY EVENING. THE EXCHANGE OF TOASTS AT THE BANGUET CONTAINED THE USUAL LAUDATORY EXPRESSIONS AND THE ONLY MENTION OF BIG POWER RIVALRY WAS A DECLARATION BY MADAME CH'EN WHO "CONDEMNED ENERGETICALLY THE SUPER POWERS THAT TRY TO DIVIDE THE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ORDER TO BETTER OBTAIN THEIR (SUPER POWER) HEGEMONY." (NOTE: THIS QUOTATION WAS TAKEN FROM SEMI-OFFICIAL "CAMEROON TRIBUNE." ACCORDING TO ANOTHER SOURCE MADAME CH'EN USED LANGUAGE BOTH STRONGER AND MORE EXPLICIT-- "SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM"--IN ROUNDLY CRITICIZING SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFRICA. THE RELEASE OF A WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF HER REMARKS IS TYPICAL OF OFFICIAL CAMEROONIAN AVOIDANCE OF CONTROVERSY.)

3. MADAME CH'EN ARRIVED TWO WEEKS AFTER THE CLOSING OF AN EXTENSIVE CHINESE COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL EXHIBITION IN WHICH LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF OBJECTS OF CHINESE ORIGIN WERE DISPLAYED. ALL ITEMS WERE PURPORTED FOR SALE, BUT PRICES RENGED TO OVER \$2,000 ROF RUGS, CARVED JADE AND IVORY. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SIMILAR EXHIBITS ARE BEING HELD IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, NOTABLY CAE.
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